
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

United States Senator for New Hampshire
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**SENATOR GREGG TO RECEIVE "NORTHERN FOREST CHAMPION"
AWARD FROM NORTHERN FOREST ALLIANCE**
AMC's Highland Center to host NFA annual meeting, award ceremony this evening

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) will be honored by the Northern Forest Alliance this evening with its "Northern Forest Champion" award for his strong commitment to the protection of the Northern Forest and significant work in the area of land protection. This is the most prestigious award given by the Northern Forest Alliance, which lauded Senator Gregg's long-standing leadership in natural resource conservation and community revitalization in New Hampshire and throughout the Northern Forest. The award ceremony will take place this evening at the Appalachian Mountain Club's Highland Center at Crawford Notch.

Senator Gregg stated, "This recognition from the Northern Forest Alliance is particularly meaningful to me given that it represents the efforts of local organizations stretching across hundreds of miles of connected habitat over four states. During my time in public office, I have worked to ensure the health of the Northern Forest, through projects like the recently completed protection of the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Land, so that future generations of residents and visitors will be able to enjoy the tremendous recreational opportunities it offers. I have also been fortunate to work with local groups to ensure recreational access through programs like the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, so that hiking, camping and fishing opportunities are not disturbed. I would like to thank the Northern Forest Alliance, as well its partner organizations, for this award and I look forward to working with them on future initiatives to ensure the health and future of the Northern Forest."

George Gay, Executive Director of the Northern Forest Alliance, stated, "Year after year, Senator Gregg has been a leader in the regional effort to enhance human and natural communities in the Northern Forest. This year, he has been exceptional. Senator Gregg played an essential role in bringing local citizens, conservationists, recreation interests, and the forest products industry together to conserve more than 171,000 acres of productive forest, wildlife habitat, and pristine waters in and around Connecticut Lakes. Additionally, Senator Gregg worked closely with the Towns of Whitefield and Jefferson to protect unique habitat areas adjacent to the Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge. The Northern Forest Alliance is extremely proud to honor Senator Gregg with our most prestigious award, the Northern Forest Champion, for 2003."

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The Northern Forest Alliance is comprised of 44-member organizations spanning forestry groups, as well as conservation and recreation groups, such as the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Trust for Public Land and the National Wildlife Federation. Earlier this fall, Senator Gregg helped

celebrate the permanent protection of the former International Paper land at the official signing ceremony in Pittsburg. Through his position on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Gregg secured \$11.6 million in federal funding which comprised the federal share of the cost of the project. At the Pittsburg event, Senator Gregg accepted the Wildlife Management Institute's 2003 "Touchstone Award," on behalf of the entire Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Task Force, which he co-chaired. The award was presented to recognize the diligence and creativity the Task Force used in designing a science-based protection strategy for the future of the land.

In early November, Senator Gregg announced that he had secured additional funding through the Fiscal Year 2004 Interior Appropriations measure, which was signed into law on November 10, for two projects to benefit the Northern Forest: \$250,000 for the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, a 740 mile trail stretching from the Adirondacks of upstate New York to northern Maine; and \$100,000 for the Northern Forest Partnership Program. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Senator Gregg has been able to secure \$750,000 over the last three years for the Canoe Trail, which will not only improve access to rivers and encourage canoe recreation in northern New Hampshire, but will also increase awareness of the need to protect our environmentally sensitive historical landmarks. The Northern Forest Partnership Program will use its award to implement a small grants program to support innovative, community-generated projects that address economic, community and conservation needs in New Hampshire, and across the four state Northern Forest region. The program, which will be administered through the Northern Forest Center in Concord, will support voluntary partnerships and leverage resources to improve social, cultural, economic, and environmental well-being.

In 2003, Senator Gregg has received recognition for his commitment to land conservation and environmental protection from the Appalachian Mountain Club; Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests; Americans for our Heritage and Recreation; Hubbard Brook Research Foundation Board of Trustees; The Nature Conservancy; New Hampshire Fish and Game Department; New Hampshire Timberland Owners' Association; Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire; and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

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